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MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

## NYA Offers Aid To Pennsylvania Youth

The National Youth Administration is now functioning in Pennsylvania. Federal aid is available during the school year 1935-1936 in educational fields for two classes of individuals: (1) for single young men and women between the ages of 16 and 25 from families on relief and unable to attend school for want of money for textbooks, carfare, lunch, and other essentials; (2) for needy college students on substantially the same plan as was in effect last year.

The Pennsylvania State Administrator of NYA activities is Isaac C. Sutton, who has offices in the WPA headquarters, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg. He is a prominent Philadelphia attorney long interested in and associated with youth activity. The Executive Director of the NYA is Aubrey Williams, Washington, D. C.

The youth education program is designed chiefly to grant assistance to the 16-to 25-year group from relief families so as to make possible the continuation in school of young men and women whose education has been interrupted. In addition to the educational aid, phases of the NYA program includes the establishment of educational and recreational youth centers, guidance work, and assistance in placement.

### REGULATIONS FOR SCHOOL AID

The following general stipulations govern the program of school aid:

1. All institutions which do not require the equivalent of high school graduation for entrance shall be included within this program, provided they are organized and operated as institutions which are non-profit making in character. In case of question the State Director will decide with the aid of the Department of Public Instruction and the Attorney General, if necessary.

2. The number of students to be given aid shall be seven per cent of the number of persons between the ages of 16 and 25 on relief as of May, 1935. Only students certified as members of families on relief will be eligible.

3. Assistance to any student shall not exceed \$6 per calendar month.

4. Financial aid made available shall be used to assist students from relief families either for: (a) doing socially desirable work such as clerical duties, library work, the checking of student exercises, problems, papers, etc.; each principal shall pass on the acceptability of the work assigned and will be responsible for the work being done satisfactorily.

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## EDUCATION CONGRESS

October 9-10, 1935

A PROGRAM built around the timely theme—"Recent Educational Trends"—has been arranged for the annual Pennsylvania Education Congress to be held October 9 and 10 in the Forum of the Education Building at Harrisburg, sponsored by the Department of Public Instruction. The opening session will be at 1:30 in the afternoon of Wednesday, October 9. The annual Congress Luncheon will be held Thursday noon.

Governor George H. Earle has been invited to speak at the Wednesday evening session where the Superintendent of Public Instruction will preside. The guest speaker will be Dr. J. Cayce Morrison, Assistant Commissioner of Education in New York State. His topic is: "What are the Fundamental Educational Needs as Revealed by the Depression?"

State and nationally known speakers, each a specialist in his field, are scheduled to contribute to the Congress program. They will present, in a professional way, current views on topics and problems that daily are pressing school folks for solution. These topics in general will fall under the following headings:

"Trends in Pre-school and Elementary Education to Meet the Needs of Childhood," (Wednesday afternoon).

"Changes in Secondary Education to Meet the Needs of Youth," including Curriculum Readjustments, Personnel Relationships, Visual and Sensory Aids and Trends in School Building Construction, (Thursday morning).

"Continuing Education for Social and Economic Readjustment," including a symposium covering such items as Building Social and Economic Intelligence, Retraining for Industrial Life, and Education for Use of Leisure Time (Thursday afternoon).

The discussion leader for the closing session will be Dr. L. R. Alderman, Director of the Educational Division of the FERA, Washington, D. C.

Every Pennsylvania school man and woman, every friend of education, is extended a cordial invitation to attend all sessions of the 1935 Education Congress, October 9 and 10. From such offerings as provided by the Congress, school executives, administrators, and teachers should receive inspiration that will go far toward assuring a school program adequately designed to meet educational needs of the immediate future.

LESTER K. ADE

Superintendent

## The State Constitution And the Schools

Friends of education have a vital interest in the proposed revision of the State Constitution. Educational implications were discussed at the annual conference of superintendents and principals at the Pennsylvania State College, August 1, following an address by Attorney General Charles J. Margiotti. The general opinion of educators there seemed to indicate they felt that a new constitution, if one is adopted, should provide sufficient flexibility to care for future needs and developments in education. Some speakers held that constitutional pronouncements on education should be restricted to generalities.

Whether or not a new State charter is to be presented for adoption will be decided at the September 17 elections. If the vote is favorable, constitutional convention delegates will be elected in November and the convention will meet December 1.

Governor George H. Earle, addressing the Constitutional Advisory Committee in Harrisburg August 13, presented a four-point basis of need for revision: (1) social security; (2) up-to-date-financing methods; (3) taxation according to ability to pay; (4) reorganization of State and local governments in the interest of efficiency and economy.

The Advisory Committee selected Attorney General Margiotti as chairman. A number of sub-committees were appointed to study various phases of the revision needs and report at a second meeting of the committee of about 75 prominent citizens in Harrisburg on September 12. They will present a brief outline of proposed constitutional changes to be made public before the primaries.

### EDUCATION VITAL

In his State College address the Attorney General cited many reasons why the time is ripe for constitutional revision. He also told of the existing uncertainty of return to school districts from the graduated income tax law passed by the 1935 session of the General Assembly, which would provide funds for the State to pay the full minimum salaries of all elementary and some junior high school teachers. He said that in the pending test of constitutionality of the income tax law before the State Supreme Court he would do all in his power to sustain its validity. Continuing, he said:

"The education of our children is the paramount duty of the sovereign State. It is as vital to the State as food is to the individual. Education has been defined as the

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**LESTER K. ADE**, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Chairman of the State Council of Education and of the Board of Presidents of State Teachers Colleges

**WILLIAM M. DENISON**, Director, Bureau of Professional Licensing; School Law (First Deputy Superintendent)

**DORR E. CROSLY**, Director, Bureau of School Administration and Finance

**WILLIAM H. BRISTOW**, Director, Bureau of The School Curriculum

**F. STEWARD HARTMAN**, Executive Assistant

**DONALD M. CRESSWELL**, Editor

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## NATIONAL ART WEEK

THE American Artists' Professional League and the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women, active supporters of art education and American arts and artists, have designated American Education Week, November 11 to 17, 1935, as National Art Week.

It is important that, from time to time, some special emphasis be placed upon the arts in American life and all that the schools are doing to bring beauty and art into the lives of our boys and girls. School administrators, art teachers and supervisors, no doubt will welcome this opportunity to arrange exhibits and art programs, and acquaint the community with the admirable work which the schools are doing along the lines of both creative expression and art appreciation.

The needs for art and artists, the discovery of young people of promise, and the contributions to our cultural needs and worthy use of leisure time are being met by art programs in the schools. What we want in our Commonwealth we must put in our schools, and art education adds much to the enrichment of life.

LESTER K. ADE

## CHANGE IN NAME

IN ORDER to avoid confusion and better describe its proper function, the official name of this publication has been changed slightly from the original title of PUBLIC EDUCATION BULLETIN to PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC EDUCATION, and is now so registered with the United States Post Office. The series of official "Bulletins" of the Department of Public Instruction now numbers more than one hundred, and will be continued under the same designation, most of them being in the *Pennsylvania Curriculum Studies* series.

## N. L. Bartges New Superintendent Of Clinton County Schools

After careful consideration of recommendations made by officers of the School Directors' Association of Clinton County relative to the vacancy in the office of county superintendent of schools in that county, Dr. Lester K. Ade, Superintendent of Public Instruction, on Thursday, September 5, filled the post by appointment of Mr. N. L. Bartges, for the past seventeen years principal and supervising principal of schools at Avis, Clinton County.

The commission was issued and the oath of office administered by Dr. Ade at noon on the same day the appointment was made. The appointment is for the nearly three years remaining in the term of four years to which the late Clinton County Superintendent Guy C. Brosius was elected in 1934. Mr. Brosius died August 17 in Philadelphia.

Superintendent Bartges is a native of Clinton County and has been a teacher in the schools there for twenty-six years, serving in the rural, grade, and secondary schools of the county. He was graduated from the State Teachers College at Lock Haven in 1912, won the bachelor of arts degree at Susquehanna University in 1928, and the master's degree in science at Pennsylvania State College in 1931.

### OTHER CHANGES

The following additional changes in district school superintendencies and assistant county school superintendencies are announced by Superintendent Ade.

**JOSEPH F. NOONAN**, District Superintendent, Mahanoy City, who also continues as Superintendent of Mahanoy Township schools.

**WALTER BAZARD**, District Superintendent, Midland, succeeding H. V. Herlinger.

**JOSEPH C. WEIRICK**, District Superintendent, Abington Township, succeeding Edward S. Ling.

**JOHN B. CAMPBELL**, District Superintendent, Exeter boro; new office.

**WILLIAM G. BURKETT**, Johnson Road, Houston, Assistant Superintendent, Washington County, succeeding S. E. Murphy, resigned.

**FRANK H. PAINTER**, Jersey Shore, Assistant Superintendent, Lycoming County, succeeding George A. Ferrell.

### GUY C. BROSIUS

Guy C. Brosius, Superintendent of Clinton County Schools since 1922, died in Philadelphia on August 17 following a major operation. He was a graduate of Bucknell University and the Pennsylvania State College, was an instructor in rural schools and at University of Pittsburgh and Dickinson College until 1922. The Lock Haven *Express* said his is "a real loss to the rural schools of the county where he labored indefatigably to broaden curricula and bring to rural boys and girls advantages commensurate to those in the larger communities."

### RECREATION BULLETIN

A new bulletin *Recreation in the State Parks and State Forests of Pennsylvania*, has been issued by the State Department of Forests and Waters. It is Bulletin 53 and is available for free distribution.

## Education Calendar

1935

### September

- 17—Constitution Day.
- 27-28—State Conference on the Education of Exceptional Children.
- 28—Frances Willard Day.
- 30-Oct. 4—Annual Convention, State Federation of Pennsylvania Women, Erie.

### October

- 3-4—PSEA Central Convention District, Lock Haven.
- 3-5—Pennsylvania Library Association, Galen Hall, Wernersville.
- 9—Fire Prevention Day.
- 9-10—Pennsylvania Education Congress, Harrisburg.
- 11—General Pulaski Day.
- 12—Columbus Day.
- 18—Fall Arbor and Bird Day.
- 18—PSEA Northwestern Convention District, Erie.
- 18—PSEA Eastern Convention District, Easton.
- 18-19—PSEA Western Convention District, Pittsburgh.
- 24—Penn Day.
- 25-26—PSEA Midwestern Convention District, New Castle.
- 27—Roosevelt Day and Navy Day.

### November

- 1-2—Pennsylvania Branch, National Department Secondary School Principals, Harrisburg.
- 11—Armistice Day.
- 11-17—American Education Week.
- 11-17—National Fine Arts Week.
- 17-23—Children's Book Week.
- 28—Thanksgiving Day.

### December

- 6-7—PSEA Southern Convention District, Hanover.
- 25—Christmas Day.
- 26-28—State Convention, PSEA, Harrisburg.

### CURTIS MERIT HARDING

Curtis Merit Harding, seventy-three, regarded as one of the ablest friends of public education in Pennsylvania during the past half-century, died at his home in Canton on August 22, as the result of a fall. As a member of the House of Representatives from 1919 to 1930 he sponsored or fought for most of the outstanding school laws presented during that period. He was particularly active in enactment of the Edmonds teacher salary law in 1921 and the "continuing contract" law in 1929.

### RETURNS TO PITTSBURGH

Dr. James N. Rule, whose four-year term as Superintendent of Public Instruction expired on May 27, returns to Pittsburgh this fall as principal of the Langley High School, after an absence of sixteen years from the public schools of that city. He was formerly principal of the Schenley High School there, resigning in 1919 to become director of the Junior American Red Cross, Washington, D. C. He entered the Department of Public Instruction in 1921, and was appointed Superintendent on May 28, 1931. He has said that he anticipates with great pleasure the return to administrative duties in the public schools and active association with high school boys and girls. He succeeds Dr. F. E. Fickinger, retired.



## School Opening Brings Finance Problems

Opening of 12,000 public schools this fall to more than 2,000,000 pupils was accompanied by prospects of the usual degree of uncertainty in financial conditions for school districts during the 1935-1936 school year. However, it is felt most of these difficulties can be overcome by careful management, economy measures, and close attention to tax collections.

There have been unavoidable delays in payment of August and September state aid allocations to school districts. This is due to necessity for first paying deficiency appropriations of more than \$4,000,000 on the 1933-1935 allocations. Deficiency payments in turn are dependent upon sale of \$50,000,000 in "tax anticipation" notes by the Commonwealth. Deficiency appropriations were to be paid about the middle of September, followed immediately by regular August and September subsidies.

### EMERGENCY AID AVAILABLE

As much of the \$3,000,000 emergency aid fund as is found necessary to help financially distressed school districts keep their schools open will be made available by the Superintendent of Public Instruction during the current school year. While return to full operation of the Edmonds teacher salary law will handicap some districts temporarily, there is a general belief that if tax collections continue to improve and the income tax law is declared constitutional, much of the difficulty in school finance can be overcome. Payment of state subsidies in full for the current school year is assured.

The falling off in enrollments in the lower grades in the public schools that has been continuous for the past ten years is expected to continue this year. The decrease in first grade enrollment has been about 50,000 or twenty per cent in the ten-year period. This is due largely to the decreasing birth rate and to less retardation since improved teaching has resulted in fewer failures and a larger percentage of pupils advanced through the lower grades each year. Restricted immigration and smaller families are other reasons advanced.

## School Building Projects Total 80 Pct. of PWA Applications

School building projects represented eighty per cent of all applications for federal aid from the Public Works Administration that were approved and sent to Washington prior to August 24, through the office of the Acting State Director, Major William H. Gavell, according to a report from that office. A new high record of school building project approvals was established during the summer months by the school buildings division in the Department of Public Instruction.

A notice from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works on August 21 established September 16 as the final date for acceptance of applications. A later bulletin, dated August 27, announced that President Roosevelt moved the deadline up to September 7. In the rush of the final two weeks the school buildings division was offering service to representatives of an average of twenty school districts daily, on both PWA and WPA projects.

## GEOGRAPHY COURSE OF STUDY STARTS RELEASE OF NEW CURRICULUM BULLETINS

Copies of Department Bulletin 91, *Geographic Education in Elementary and Junior High Schools—Suggestions for Developing Courses of Study in Geography*, are being distributed to all county and district superintendents. Sufficient copies of the bulletin have been printed so that each classroom in the Commonwealth may be supplied.

The purpose of this Pennsylvania Curriculum Studies bulletin is to offer suggestions to administrators and teachers to aid in the development of courses adapted to local conditions.

An outstanding feature of the bulletin is the stress placed upon geography as a study of the interrelationships between man and his natural environment. The bulletin attempts to point out these interrelationships and to present type units suggesting experiences for children which may develop an understanding of these interrelationships. The study of Pennsylvania geography is emphasized in the eighth year.

### OTHER BULLETINS READY

BULLETIN 98—*Suggestions for Developing Units of Study in Motion Picture Appreciation* was received from the printer in July and initial distribution has been made. This bulletin was prepared in cooperation with the Payne Fund, and is intended primarily for use in secondary schools.

BULLETIN 87—*Conference Planning and Leadership as Applied to Foremanship Training*, has been received from the printer. It is a bulletin of 44 pages prepared primarily for the purpose of aiding con-

ference leaders in industry to conduct foremanship programs.

BULLETIN 88—*Reporting Pupil Progress*, covers its field thoroughly and helps the school, the pupil and parents to evaluate pupil growth. It is a 36-page bulletin and is in process of distribution.

BULLETIN 96—*Sight Conservation and Sight-saving Classes*, is being distributed. This bulletin of 16 pages was prepared co-operatively with the Department of Health and the Council for the Blind, Department of Welfare, and aims toward prevention and correction of visual defects in school children.

### TO BE READY SOON

Other Pennsylvania Curriculum Studies bulletins that will be ready for distribution before the end of September are:

BULLETIN 13—*Suggestions for Developing Guidance Practices in Secondary Schools* (Revision of General Guidance Bulletin 13, 1925).

BULLETIN 78—*Organization and Administration of Extension Centers, Schools and Classes*.

BULLETIN 84—*Course of Study in Book-keeping for Senior High Schools*.

BULLETIN 85—*Organization and Administration of Special Education Classes for the Orthogenic Backward*.

BULLETIN 86—*Parent Education*.

BULLETIN 95—*The use of Radio in Developing Instructional Programs*.

BULLETIN 108—*Highway Safety*.

## Special Education Conference Will Meet September 27 and 28

The Pennsylvania State Conference for the Education of Exceptional Children will hold its annual meeting in Harrisburg Friday evening, September 27, and Saturday, September 28. Dr. Lester K. Ade, Superintendent of Public Instruction, will address one of the general sessions.

Programs of timely interest to teachers of the mentally and physically handicapped have been prepared for the following Saturday morning section meetings: blind and partially sighted; cardiac, nutrition, nutrition-tuberculous clinicians; deaf; orthogenic backward, orthogenic disciplinary and restoration; orthopedic; speech correction and hard-of-hearing; vocational education and vocational guidance. The social committee is planning entertainment of interest to all.

### ROOSEVELT ANNIVERSARY

The seventy-seventh anniversary of the birth of Theodore Roosevelt falls on Sunday, October 27. Pennsylvania schools usually observe this anniversary, sometimes in connection with "Navy Day." A suggested program applicable for use in the school room may be obtained by writing to Roosevelt House, Woman's Roosevelt Memorial Association, 28 East Twentieth Street, New York City.

## Five State Senators Are Appointed to Education Cost Study Group

Personnel of the Joint Legislative Committee to Study Pennsylvania School Costs has been completed with the appointment of the Senate group authorized by the Clark bill which carried an appropriation of \$10,000 for the investigation. Senators appointed by Senator John G. Homsher, President pro tempore of the Senate are: Leroy E. Chapman, Warren; Charles W. Staudenmeier, Schuylkill; Joseph B. Ziesenheim, Erie; Frederick T. Gelder, Susquehanna; and Edward J. Thompson, Centre.

Members of the House Committee previously appointed and who submitted a preliminary report to the House of Representatives on June 17, will meet with the Senate appointees for organization at the call of the House Committee chairman, Representative Hiram G. Andrews, Cambria, in the near future. Other House Committee members appointed by Speaker Wilson G. Sarig are Representatives Harry J. Brownfield, Fayette; Joseph Ominsky, Philadelphia; John E. VanAllsburg, Erie; and Elmer J. Holland, Allegheny.

The Department of Public Instruction recently issued a statement outlining instructional materials organized in accordance with provisions of the school code relating to stimulants and narcotics. It is a part of the program in health instruction.



## NYA in Pennsylvania

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factorily and under proper supervision; (b) maintaining excellence in the full-time performance of their school duties, in the case of individual students who are especially well qualified, or for whom the assignment of work is impracticable.

5. This aid shall not be used to replace funds heretofore available for aid to the students in the school applying for participation in the program.

6. Ordinary maintenance and janitorial work about the school, and other routine activities that would have to be carried on anyway, shall be financed from the usual sources and not from NYA aid.

7. Persons between the ages of 16 and 25 from relief families shall be selected for assistance in continuing in school on the following considerations: (a) need; (b) character and ability to do school work; (c) status of attendance.

8. The hourly rate of pay for those students who are granted assistance in return for work that they perform shall be such as is commonly paid by the institutions for the type of service rendered. No student shall work more than ten hours in any week, or three hours in any day.

9. The assistance granted to qualified students in return for the excellence of the performance of their full-time school studies shall be made available in amounts determined by the student's individual need as indicated on the application submitted after review.

10. School pupils desiring aid should make direct application for made-work to their school principals.

Director Sutton is to be assisted in the NYA work in Pennsylvania by Dr. Karl T. Waugh, deputy director, formerly president of Dickinson College; Charles H. English, Philadelphia, assistant director of community programs, formerly in charge of recreation in the Emergency Education Program; Dr. Harold H. Holbrook, assistant director in charge of guidance, until several years ago in charge of guidance in the Department of Public Instruction; and Dr. J. Paul Selsam, regional director for Central Pennsylvania, formerly a member of the faculty of Franklin and Marshall and Pennsylvania State Colleges.

### IN THE COLLEGES

The NYA also supervises distribution of funds to needy students attending colleges and schools which are non-profit making in character. Funds are to pay students for doing socially desirable work, such as clerical, library and research, and work in extension, adult education, recreation and any other forms of activity increasing the usefulness of the college to the community. One may not work more than 30 hours per week nor receive more than \$20 per month. Each college will designate an official to take charge of the student-aid program and receive all applications. It makes little difference whether the family of the student is on relief rolls, it is said. Allotments are to be made on the basis of \$15 per month for 12 per cent of the students enrolled. Students make application for student made-work to the president of the college.

## SPECIAL SCHOOL DAYS

By Proclamation of the Governor

### GENERAL PULASKI DAY—OCTOBER 11

By an Act of the General Assembly approved May 6, 1931, the Governor annually issues a proclamation "calling upon officials of the Government to display the Flag of the United States on all governmental buildings on October eleventh of each year, and invite the people of the Commonwealth to observe the day, in the schools, churches and other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies in commemoration of the death of General Casimir Pulaski."

### ARBOR AND BIRD DAY—OCTOBER 18

Schools and the general public will be asked to join in observance of Fall Arbor Day and Bird Day on Friday, October 18. Arbor Day has been observed officially in Pennsylvania for fifty years, being established by Act of the General Assembly in 1885. For twenty years Bird Day has been observed on days officially set aside as Arbor Days, or since passage of a special act by the General Assembly in 1915. Bulletin No. 82, published last spring by the Department of Public Instruction, is available for free distribution to schools. It gives information on Pennsylvania's trees and flowers, the value of birds to man, the planning, planting and caring for school grounds, and suggestions for Arbor Day and Bird Day activities.

### PENN DAY—OCTOBER 24

Schools, patriotic organizations and groups interested in Pennsylvania history will commemorate the 290th anniversary of the birth of William Penn, the Founder of the Commonwealth, on Thursday, October 24, in accordance with a proclamation to be issued by Governor Earle, setting aside this day for the observance.

There is a wealth of material concerning the life of William Penn which may be obtained in almost every library. Publications available from the Department of Public Instruction include Bulletin 83, *Penn Day, 1934*; *Pennsylvania History—A Selected bibliography of Secondary Works on Pennsylvania History, 1933*; Bulletin No. 2 of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission—*Pennsylvania Bibliography, 1933*.

### AMUSEMENT TAX EXEMPTIONS

The State Department of Revenue has issued the following supplemental amusement tax regulation:

"The Department will issue Certificates of Exemption on account of all athletic contests, games, or exhibitions, the proceeds of which inure to educational institutions not conducted for profit or the athletic associations thereof, except that no Certificate of Exemption will be issued on account of athletic games or contests between colleges or universities, but all schools must apply for an amusement permit. However, private schools that charge a tuition fee are not exempt within the meaning of the act."

Applications for amusement permits should be addressed to the Department of Revenue, Stamp and Amusement Tax Division, Harrisburg.

## Constitution and Schools

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cheapest defense of nations. It is the surest safeguard to those ideals and institutions upon which our great country is founded. If liberty, virtue and good citizenship are to flourish in our Commonwealth, the education of our youth cannot be neglected. It naturally follows that the greatest influence in the development of our citizenry is the influence of a good teacher. Teachers are the allies of legislators, the guardians of law and order, the bulwark that stands between democracy and anarchy. It is the business of government to give adequate support to public education. The laws of nature are immutable and children grow up and require education in periods of depression the same as they do in normal times. Public improvements and other matters may wait but the education of our children must not be ignored.

"I assert that the only way that the high standards of our schools can be maintained, the only way that sufficient revenues can be guaranteed to provide proper education for our children, the only method by which our teachers can be made secure in their positions and assured of a fair return for the invaluable service they render, is by the Commonwealth making proper provision for revenue for education.

"Our Constitution should be revised so as to make it possible for the State to assume its most paramount obligation, the cost of maintaining our public school system."

## Constitutionality of Income Tax Challenged in Test Suit

At the instance of Attorney General Charles J. Margiotti, a friendly, test suit attacking the constitutionality of the State's new graduated income tax law was filed in Philadelphia August 30 by John P. Connelly, Philadelphia city solicitor. Acting on behalf of Joseph J. Kelly, Philadelphia taxpayer, Connelly asked that the State Supreme Court take original jurisdiction in the case to expedite a final decision on the validity of the act.

School administrators and executives are interested in the outcome of this test case, for on it hinges the decision as to whether or not \$25,000,000 appropriated by the Legislature for school aid in relief of realty taxes will be made available for the school year 1936-1937 through revenues from the proposed income tax.

According to reports, the test suit asserts the graduated tax levy is in violation of the section of the State Constitution providing "all taxes shall be uniform, upon the same class of subjects, within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax..." The suit also contends that the income tax was "special legislation."

Granting of an injunction was asked to restrain plaintiffs from enforcing provisions of the act and to fix September 30, date for the court's earliest session, for hearing petitions. The petition is in the hands of Chief Justice Robert S. Frazer.